

[11 August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) It is a fact that a number of VIPs/VVIPs arrive at New Delhi Station. However, statistics regarding the number of VIPs/VVIPs arriving at New Delhi Railway station is not maintained.

(b) to (d) The running of train and other functions of railways are not affected by arrival of VIPs/VVIPs and also no inconvenience is caused to general passengers on account of this reason. The VIPs are being looked after by staff/officers not connected with running of trains. There is not proposal to appoint Protocol Officer to look after the VIPs arriving at New Delhi Station.

Report on Gaisal Rail Accident

2281. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the date of Gaisal rail accident;
- (b) the date of constitution of Judicial Commission to probe the accident;
- (c) whether report of the Commission has been submitted;
- (d) if so, the major recommendations of the Commission and the action taken on them; and
- (e) if not, the reasons for the delay and by which date the same would be received?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) (a) 02.08.1999.

(b) 20.08.1999.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Judicial Commission which was constituted on 20.08.1999 visited the accident site and nearby stations and hospitals twice during November, 1999. After examination of details collected by the Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety, examination of witnesses commenced from 16.02.2000 and so far nearly hundred Railway

witnesses have deposed before the Commission. The Report of the Commission is likely to be submitted soon.

Scheme for Railway Traffic in Maharashtra

†2282. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government considering any scheme for railway traffic and laying tracks in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof, since when this demand is pending with Government and the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government are considering to provide more rail tracks in tribal areas of Maharashtra, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) While taking investment decisions on the Railways, an integrated view of the System is taken. State boundaries are not a criteria for deciding on Railway projects. Demands for new Railway projects are received from various quarters on a continuous basis. These demands are taken due note of while formulating proposal for Railway projects. Details of Railway projects in progress in Maharashtra including in its tribal areas are given in the enclosed statement.

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.